

5 November 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: 5 November Meeting of the "Indochina Steering Group"

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1. [REDACTED] described the current state of affairs concerning the Fullbright amendment. The amendment has already been passed and signed into law, but there remains the need to persuade the Senate to permit interpretation of the amendment so that Agency activities can continue in northern Laos. The Director has been unsuccessful to date in arranging an appointment with Senator Russell. There was a lengthy discussion yesterday with the senior staff officers of our four congressional subcommittees. In essence, the Agency line is that it is necessary to undertake activities to check the Communists at varying points in Southeast Asia in order to facilitate Vietnamization and US withdrawal. At a minimum, the amendment should be construed to approve those activities which were already in train when the amendment was passed. Secretary Laird is in agreement with this and says he will do what he can to help bring this about.

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2. [REDACTED] referred to a "Laos ad hoc meeting" held in recent days to come up with a paper on enemy and friendly planning for the dry season. It is quite clear that there is no single senior State officer responsible for Laos and there is thus a lack of focus on Laos in the Department. Marshall Green prefers to deal with loftier area-wide issues. Sullivan obviously wants to remain unencumbered by the problem. All of this is of concern to [REDACTED] and his colleagues.

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3. [REDACTED] also noted that the [REDACTED] in the south have thus far done much better than expected. No one doubts that they will get themselves stomped on sooner or later but to date their performance has been "amazing."

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4. [REDACTED] of OER reported on the transfer of [REDACTED] research staff and on OCI's agreement to take on the job of reporting on the Viet Cong infrastructure. [REDACTED] noted that the troublesome [REDACTED] has a way of freewheeling through Agency offices. He will be working on Cambodian Communist efforts to develop a countryside organization and [REDACTED] thought each office would want to set up some kind of control procedures governing [REDACTED] access to individual components or officers. [REDACTED] emphasized that the [REDACTED] change has been in the works for some time and is unrelated to the recent Sheehan article. [REDACTED] hands are clean in this regard.

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5. [REDACTED] reported that the wrap-up on the Sihanoukville supply operation runs to 200 pages and will be given to the DDI tomorrow. After the DDI has sent it forward to the DCI, internal distribution will be made.

6. [REDACTED] noted that there is recent evidence of compromise of [REDACTED] added that there continues to be information showing prior Communist knowledge of B-52 raids. [REDACTED] suspects there may be a penetration of American military elements. The story will be put together in some detail, and it will be suggested to [REDACTED] that he bring this to the attention of General Weyand.

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7. I reported on Communist agreement to secret talks in Paris, beginning on the 9th. I referred to recent evidence of Communist preparations for this, [REDACTED] thought that it might be useful to see if there is any evidence that Xuan Thuy might have traveled from Budapest to Moscow to rendezvous with VIP's from Hanoi.

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8. [REDACTED] said he had recalled all copies of the draft ONE memo concerning the possibility of a large-scale Communist military effort in Cambodia to unseat Lon Nol. He and [REDACTED] had thought the memo needed more work. The lead paragraphs have been revised. It is now with [REDACTED]. It is intended that it will eventually go to the DCI.

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25X1A 9. [REDACTED] said he had talked with [REDACTED] recently to suggest that it would be useful to produce a memo on the situation in North Vietnam a year after Ho's death. [REDACTED] said that he had this in mind; drafts to date have been unsatisfactory. The group agreed that such a memo would be very useful. 25X1A

25X1A 10. [REDACTED] reported that there is a continuing lack of progress in connection with the political portions of NSSM 99. 25X1A

25X1A 11. [REDACTED] noted that OER and OCI will represent the Agency at an Order of Battle conference on Southeast Asia next week. He noted Ambassador Godley's recent request for a comparative traffic study of current Communist logistic efforts; the action in arranging a response was given to OER. 25X1A

25X1A 12. [REDACTED] noted the continuing difficulties in providing special training for [REDACTED]. The basic problem is that there is no competent cadre available and progress is not likely for some time. 25X6 25X6

25X1A 13. [REDACTED] reported on his discussion with Secretary Laird yesterday concerning the [REDACTED] problem. A reduction of US carrier force operations could restrict the amount of available data on Communist infiltration. Laird promised to take all steps necessary to prevent degradation of the collection. He asked for a memo from [REDACTED] by the end of this week. [REDACTED] meanwhile tipped off General Philpott of DIA. Philpott indicated that the necessary air cover for the reconnaissance will be provided from Da Nang and there should be no loss of data. 25X1A 25X1A

25X1A 14. [REDACTED] referred to an Agency cable [REDACTED] restricted to the Ops channel, which provides further information about groups of Chinese Communists who passed through [REDACTED] to the COSVN border areas in 1967 and 68. It was agreed that [REDACTED] will arrange for release of this information into intelligence channels. 25X1A 25X1A 25X1A

25X1A 15. [REDACTED] indicated that more information is expected soon on the history of Cambodian relationships with Chinese. [REDACTED] had nothing new on the schedule for [REDACTED] visit to the US. 25X1A 25X1A

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Deputy Director of Current Intelligence

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